



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

100 North Senate Avenue

Room N758

Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2216

(317) 232-5533

FAX: (317) 232-0238

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MITCHELL E. DANIELS, JR., Governor
THOMAS O. SHARP, Commissioner

Writer's Direct Line
(317) 233-4676

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US 31 Kokomo Corridor Project Study to be Released

Six options for new highway to be presented at public hearing

Indianapolis – (March 31, 2005) – On April 1, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) will release the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the US 31 Kokomo Corridor Project. The safety of motorists is a top priority at INDOT. This DEIS was prompted, in part, by the fatal crash rate in Howard County's US 31 corridor – which is nearly twice the statewide average.

This study evaluates five "build" alternatives and one "no-action" alternative. Transportation experts have evaluated the potential impacts of each alternative based on traffic, environment and other factors. The US 31 Kokomo Corridor Project is located primarily east of Kokomo, in Howard County, and covers a distance of approximately 13 miles.

"The DEIS represents an important milestone in the planning process because it gives the public detailed information about each alternative under consideration," said INDOT Commissioner Tom Sharp. "Public participation is a key component of this project. We encourage everyone to continue sharing their insights and concerns with us."

FHWA, INDOT, and Parsons, the consulting firm managing the environmental study, will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday, April 19, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., at Kokomo High School. The hearing will feature an open house format, during which attendees can review the DEIS findings and ask questions of project team members. A formal presentation will take place at 6 p.m., followed by a public comment period.

Visitors to www.us31kokomo.com can view the DEIS document online and use an electronic form to comment on the project. Comments can also be made by calling the project office toll free at 866-821-6301, by fax to 317-616-1033, or by sending a letter to:

- US 31 Kokomo Corridor Project
Parsons
902 North Capitol Ave., Suite 301
Indianapolis, IN 46204

The project's DEIS is available for public review and comment through May 23.

The DEIS can be viewed at the following locations:

- Kokomo-Howard County Public Library, Main Library, 220 N. Union St., Kokomo 765-457-3242
- Kokomo-Howard County Public Library, South Branch, 1755 E. Center Rd., Kokomo 765-453-4150
- Kokomo-Howard County Governmental Coordinating Council (GCC), 120 E. Mulberry St., Ste. 116, Kokomo 765-456-2336
- Tipton County Public Library, 127 E. Madison St., Tipton 765-675-8761
- City Building, Development Department, 100 S. Union St., 2nd Fl., Kokomo 765-456-7375
- INDOT Greenfield District Office, 32 South Broadway, Greenfield 317-462-7751
- INDOT Public Hearings Office, 100 N. Senate Ave., Room N901, Indianapolis 317-232-5457

After reviewing public and agency comments, FHWA and INDOT will publish the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) in late 2005 with identification of a preferred alternative. The FHWA will follow that with a Record of Decision (ROD) on the preferred alternative in Spring 2006.

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